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THE LIMBERG DAM AT KAPRUN

[facing p. 122]

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433 In contrast to these impressive results the record of Austria's comparatively neglected consumer-goods industries was much less satisfactory. Of the two industries that received most ERP help, the electrical industry, after at first suffering from high import requirements and excessive production costs, finally responded to treatment by raising the value of its exports by nearly 400 per cent between 1949 and 1950. In 1951 textile production just managed to exceed the 1937 level. But the export of finished goods as a whole in the first half of 1951 was only two-thirds of the 1937 figure, and during the subsequent twelve months showed a tendency to fall.

The high proportion of counterpart funds spent on fuel and power was justified by results. In 1951 Austrian coal production at 5·2 million tons reached a record level and was 48 per cent above the highest pre-War figure. Output per man and shift rose by 27 per cent between 1948 and 1950. The steam-driven power-station at Linz was restored to full productive capacity, and such good progress was made with the power-stations being built in the vicinity of brown-coal deposits that the total current produced by steam-driven power-stations in 1951 amounted to 1·68 billion kilowatt-hours. The production of hydro-electric current rose from 4·45 billion kilowatt hours in 1948 to 5·66 billion in 1951. In September 1951 the Limberg dam, the first and greatest of the Kaprun dams, was officially opened in the presence of the Federal President. This great engineering achievement, which is the largest curved dam in Europe and one of the largest in the world, makes possible the storage of 86 million tons of water and the annual production of 160 million kilowatt hours of winter current.

As regards other minerals, under the stimulus of ERP support magnesite and copper production went rapidly ahead, while the output of lead, in spite of the exhaustion of the more accessible deposits, has nearly regained the pre-War level. By 1951 the production of copper had risen to 308 per cent of the 1937 level, and the production of raw magnesite to 167 per cent. The figures for the main magnesite products varied between 191 per cent and 248 per cent.

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But the Austrian attitude on the subject cannot be attributed to the influence and example of any individual. It lay in the logic of Austria's position as a small and defenceless State that her people should pin their hopes on the support and guarantees provided by a world organization such as the United Nations. As far back as 1922 Monsignor Seipel had accepted the help and financial supervision of the League of Nations. In April 1946 the Austrian Government was invited to send representatives to the last meeting of the League as observers, and the President of the Assembly spoke of Austria as 'one of the most solid pillars of our organization' and referred to the specially active part she had taken in all the League's work.

Austria's belief in international co-operation has been revealed in a number of ways: through her support of specific projects with limited aims, her interest in European unity, and her enthusiasm for the United Nations and the work of the Specialized Agencies.

The full utilization of Austria's hydro-electric resources would only be possible on an international basis, as their potentialities greatly exceed her maximum needs, and there would be no point in her investing in projects beyond her own requirements, without international arrangements guaranteeing consumption. In December 1952 a meeting took place at Innsbruck between representatives of Austria, Germany, France, and Italy. It led to the establishment of an International Power Survey Company for co-ordinating hydro-electric developments in Austria with those of the three other countries.

Another project in which Austria has shown great interest is the plan for a Rhine–Main–Danube Canal, which would link the North Sea with the Black Sea. It involves improving the navigability of the Main and the construction of a canal from Bamberg on the Main to Regensburg on the Danube. The economic and political implications of the plan are considerable, and its immediate advantages for Austria obvious. At present her overseas exports are shipped from Trieste or the

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German North Sea ports, and in either case the railway freight charges add substantially to the cost of transport. The opening up of a water-way to the sea would be of the greatest value.

Austria's participation in such plans as these is due mainly to her needs and natural endowments as a land-locked Alpine country. To a large extent her interest in all international movements is the result of her size and situation. Yet Austria's internationalism cannot be attributed solely to material factors. The warmth and spontaneity of her people's response reflect their temperament, their humanity, and their political and religious convictions.

The Austrian attitude towards European unity has never been in doubt. In October 1945, before the European movement had been fully launched by Churchill's great speeches at Brussels, The Hague, and Zürich, Leopold Figl, who was not yet Chancellor, wrote of Austria as a 'germ-cell' in the reconstruction of the European community of peoples. In one of his first speeches to the National Assembly the following December he spoke of the vital importance of instilling into the rising generation of Austrians an 'all-European democratic way of thought'. Austria was subsequently represented at the Congress of Europe at the Hague in 1948 and at meetings of the European Parliamentary Union. Members of the Austrian Parliament have also attended meetings of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe as observers since the autumn of 1951, and have taken part in its committee work. The only reason Austria has not become an official member of the Council is that her Government felt it inadvisable to take such a step, so long as the occupation continued.

One indication of the importance attached by Austria to friendly relations with other countries has been the many goodwill visits abroad undertaken by leading statesmen since the end of the War. Dr. Gruber himself has been a tireless traveller. There has also been a rapid development in the Austrian foreign service since the Allied Council permitted the exchange of diplomatic representatives early in 1946. Within a few years the size of the service as a whole and the number of

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Medicinal Baths in Austria.

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HEALTH RESORTS AND SPAS.

Nature in Austria attracts not only through variety and charm, but also through a healthy climate which is bracing for mind and body. Situated between the oceanic West and the continental East, the graduated heights, the mountain ranges, lakes, rivers and forests provide many variations of climate, capable of satisfying a wide range of demands for a mild or bracing resort, and a variety of choice which enables every individual to select just what he wishes for himself.

There are over 200 health resorts in Austria, 110 of them being medicinal spas. Some of them are world-famous, attracting and retaining an international public. Others are quiet and remote, lying in gently rolling hill country, and others again call one to the invigorating heights of the mountains.

Along the long-known thermal line which skirts the eastern edge of the Alps and runs from the Danube through Lower Austria and the Burgenland down to

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Styria, is a long succession of spas. Another group benefits by the mountain riches of salts and volcanic springs. There is a succession of healing health resorts extending from Bad Hall in Upper Austria across the Salzkammergut and the magnificent valley of the Gasteiner Ache to Solbad Hall-in-Tyrol.

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Chalybeate waters, radio-active springs, mineral-saline waters, sulphur springs containing iodine or bromide, mineral waters of the most varying kinds are all used in a carefully tested therapy for drinking or bathing cures, inhalations or medicinal packs.

Whatever could be done by man to add to the gifts of generous nature has been done in Austria. The health resorts and baths themselves are as diverse and manifold as the healing springs. Baden-bei-Wien lies in a specially favoured corner of the Wienerwald, with its sulphur springs which were valued by the Romans, amidst very lovely scenery. Nestling among forested hills and extensive vineyards, the town with its well-kept avenues, its park, its promenade, theatre and charmingly built villas is like a great hospitable garden. Baden has been a favourite resort for statesmen, men of science and artists from time immemorial when they have sought peace and recuperation to enable them to face new tasks.

Badgastein, situated amidst the impressive panorama of the Salzburg Tauern, has become Austria's most famous medicinal spa. Mountain sun, absence of fog and the purity of the air all help to increase the effect of the radioactive thermal waters. This place, with its varied profusion of pump rooms, fine houses and modern hotel residences towers above and around the rushing, foaming, cascading Gasteiner Ache like an enormous amphitheatre, a picture of elegance and comfort combined with nature in her most overpowering and impressive mood. The shady and well-kept paths hold memorials to many famous personages, to rulers, statesmen, diplomats and artists. An international public from all over the world gathers here in the hope of postponing old age and recovering youth.

One thing is common to all Austrian spas—to Tatzmannsdorf, Schallerbach, Vöslau, Gleichenberg, Warmbad Villach, Aussee and